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Mr. Wilson Still Has Work Near Home

WHEN Mr. Wilson first took office, before any but the secret subversives of the world foresaw a world war, he was aware that the capitalists who were arrayed against him would do their utmost to discredit a Democratic administration by bringing on an artificial panic. That had been the usual means by which the money-power indicated its displeasure with Presidents who annoyed. It had been used with such success on previous Democratic administrations that the arrival of the Democratic party at the highest places of power had always been regarded by public opinion—fed, of course, by propaganda—as the forerunner of industrial depression. The same method was used to bring Roosevelt to a more respectful obedience, during the so-called "Roosevelt panic," for which there was no reason at all save the will of the money-masters. From that time forth, after one desperate effort at liberation, Roosevelt was more "regular" than he had ever been in his life.

Mr. Wilson, evidently fearing that some such discipline would be given him and his party, gave full warning that any financier or group of financiers that should "start anything" could expect to be "hung on a gallows high as Haman." At that time it was well enough understood that Mr. Wilson would do as he said. He was undoubtedly out to bring the Democratic party back to public confidence.

The war made strange changes in all relations between political parties and Big Business in this country, and when it was over there was apparently no need for the money-power to maintain an attitude of antagonism to the Democratic administration. The last convention, as well as the testimony of the years which immediately preceded it, made clear that the money-masters of the United States had no more to fear from the Democratic than from the Republican party. The partnership—or the ownership—is pretty well established. The money-power of the United States would not fear the advent of another Democratic administration, as it feared the advent of Mr. Wilson. By platform and by candidate the Democratic party is pretty well tied up for the immediate future to what the illustrious Democrat, Grover Cleveland, called "inocuous desuetude."

The money-power, however, still prefers the Republican party. It can always be trusted. It has worked in harness so long that whatever tendency toward independence it might have had is now safely subdued. For that reason there will probably be an attempt during this campaign to throw the country into a period of industrial decline for the purpose of intensifying the public doubtfulness which was created by Mr. Wilson's foreign policies. There are already signs that this may be done in the country, that indeed it is being done now.

The purpose would not be entirely to make the Democratic road more rocky, but to get other things done under cover of the campaign. There are still those who foolishly believe that labor must somehow be chastised, in spite of the new spirit which has come over labor since the failure of the radical movement. There are others who believe that a sudden stoppage of the industrial process is necessary to permit prices to ebb back to their former level. If these things can be accomplished under the blanket excuse that "business is always unsettled in campaign years," then by a word from the masters business could be resumed in full force upon the election of the Republican candidate, and the old, old story go forth that "the full dinner pail" is the fruit of Republican policies and of no other. It would simply be the trick of killing the economic and political birds with one stone.

Mr. Wilson must leave office March 4. That much is settled. But he still has seven good months in which to serve the nation. He still has time to get

back to that energy of personal influence which he used for the clarification of the national mind on its former economic questions. Mr. Wilson's strength will be in the clearness with which he sees and the directness with which he speaks what he sees. The country's thought has been without a leader for months. Mr. Wilson does not need a Congress either with him or against him in order to straighten out the mind of the country on its economic problems.

If he will forget Paris for the time, if he will renounce his alliance with the money-masters, an alliance made necessary perhaps during the war, if he will return to the clear vision and fearlessness of the Woodrow Wilson of 1912, and throw the spotlight of his genius upon the enemies which have persisted in patience for his retirement, he may yet find the malefactors who should be hung up for public repudiation upon the gallows of presidential exposure.

It is greatly to be hoped that Mr. Wilson will not be lured during the closing months of his Presidency into mere partisan interests. It is to be hoped that he may see that he may safely trust to his nation and posterity the great work he tried to do in Paris. Putting these things behind him, he may yet do great things for the everyday welfare of his own people, and so revive the gratitude with which they regarded his earlier program.

A "Red" Invocation

"WE HAVE abolished God," said the Russian commissar to whom a dying man appealed for spiritual consolation. And at the radical convention recently held at Chicago, the Rev. Mr. George Chalmers Richmond thanked God for Russia, while "Red" delegates applauded his prayer by tossing their hats aloft and letting loose their revolutionary war cries.

Nothing is more pitiable than the ease with which priests and ministers who thirst for applause are taken in by the frothy homage of the "Reds." The whole history of unrest is eloquent of the fact that men of noble minds are not drawn to it, but only men who seek in it the distinction they have failed to gain elsewhere. Once in a Socialist convention the name of Jesus Christ was cheered while the church was hissed. He was cheered because someone said He was a Socialist. If anyone in that convention had read what Jesus Christ said about Himself, the cheers would have fallen to hisses again. The church will not be deceived by the verbiage of "brotherhood," although temperamental and loosely centered churchmen always will.

Nothing was more vividly illustrative of the total lack of spiritual insight, and fitting reverence of thought, nothing was more vividly illustrative of the gross materialism, the "Red" vengefulness and the nauseating self-esteem of the "Reds," individually and collectively, than the reception of that most sacrilegious prayer of the irreverend Richmond.

The plan of the "Reds," of course, is to get rid of all churches and all religion. It is written in their programs. It is preached in their meetings. And the choice means of such destruction is the infiltration into the churches of the "Red" idea. It is the method of infiltration, the method of the borer worm, which paves the way for collapse.

Laws and the People

THE German Government in agreeing to the disarmament terms is most pessimistic. It does not expect to survive its efforts to carry them out, and agrees because it must. Probably it is a pretty good judge of the situation, but one point of the passage at arms that preceded the agreement is rather enlightening.

To the German protest that they could not perform what they were asked to promise, Lloyd George answered that they had only to pass a law to correct the situation. The German rejoinder was that there were some parts of the world where even the power of Great Britain failed to carry out such a law.

For some reason, the British Premier was obsessed for a moment by the pet American delusion—that the passage of a law accomplishes something. Perhaps he is under that persuasion most of the time, and that would explain some of his administrative failures.

We have had hundreds of examples in America of making a law to correct some evil, then forgetting about it and finding the evil still flourishes. We forget that a law must be enforced and that it can only be enforced when it has the acquiescence if not the active support of a substantial majority.

The German disarmament law, which must now be passed, will fail unless a substantial majority of the people approve of it. If two great bodies of the public—the workingmen and the soldiers of the monarchists—refused to surrender their arms, it will fail like every other unsupported law, but with far more disastrous results.

The Soldier Vote

ANYONE who scans the press of the United States must be aware of the determined attempts that are being made in almost every state and large city to line up "the soldier vote" for some candidate. More than that, anyone, who appreciates the power for Americanism which the American Legion can exert in this nation, must have misgivings as to the effect of these attempts if the Legionaries are misled by them.

In many instances the name of the American Legion is being invoked in behalf of aldermen and sheriffs. While these officers are of importance to the community and while there are circumstances in which they may be crucial for Americanism, they are hardly of the kind which justifies the mobilization of "the soldier vote." If too much of this is done, there may be more of a soldier vote than there is of a labor vote, as such. It would be very easy to give the public an impression that the Legion is simply dabbling in politics, instead of holding itself steady for the big "drives" on which will depend all advance of political principles.

Every little politician will be running around trying to pin "the soldier vote" to himself, and if given the least opportunity he will wear the Legion as a tag to his petty campaign. More than that, there are men within the Legion itself who would not scruple to use it for their own advancement on the score of being "a good fellow." These are things to be watched, for the sake of the Legion.

The Legion has shown a great improvement in balance during recent months. It was natural that, returning from a war where a spade is a spade, the men of the A. E. F. were impatient of certain things which go along with civilian life in a free country. Particularly were they impatient of certain phases of free speech, and they showed their impatience in good old army style. That, however, has been adjusted. The Legion passed that danger point easily; may it pass the political danger point just as easily; and hold itself free and untrammelled for the big "drives" for American principle everywhere and all the time, but most of all, in the administration of the Government of the United States.

A Race None Will Win

THE efforts of the leaders of both the great parties of the United States to get the suffrage amendment ratified before election are not unamusing. The political aspect is entirely apparent. Nobody cares about "votes for women," but they do care immensely about votes of women.

It is hardly complimentary to the newly enfranchised electors in a great many states to make such a barefaced bid for their votes. They must be accounted extraordinarily simple-minded, if they are expected to swallow any campaign propaganda to the effect that the Republican or the Democratic party put suffrage across.

Bosses in both these organizations did not want women to vote. They were and are an unaccountable factor, and bosses do not like unaccountable factors. The rank and file in both parties has given women votes and will complete the job.

Perhaps not oddly, women, where they have voted, have worked little change in elections except to increase the vote unless some moral question is involved. It was unquestionably the force of the women's vote in the states where they are enfranchised that helped to make the country dry, and it is the women's vote that will keep it so.

Nevertheless, even without the women's votes many states voted dry and if one is so minded one can easily draw the conclusion that even here they have done nothing but swell totals.

The Cause of the Feeling

ANTI-AMERICANISM has flared up again in Japan. It is a thing we are slowly getting used to, since the Japanese ceased to be a "wonderful little people," and became a world power by dint of beating Russia. The anti-Japanese flavor to American policies also is more or less familiar.

One would say that this held the seeds of another war, were it not for the fact that something of the same stuff has been going on between the United States and Great Britain for more than a century without producing a conflict.

Japanese and Americans are not quite compatible when domiciled together. The Japanese feel that this is racial, and even Americans do not quite understand that the difficulty is economic.

When the Japanese laborer begins to get a fair day's wage and raises his standard of living, it will be remarkable how the feeling will disappear. Anglo-American friction is a poor, weak thing since the war brought big wages in England.